

H. Res. 379

In the House of Representatives, U.S.,

March 27, 1996.

Whereas over four million Kurds live in Iraq, composing 20 percent of the population;

Whereas the Iraqi Government has continually taken violent actions against Kurds living in Iraq;

Whereas, on March 17, 1988, the Iraqi Government, by its own admission, used chemical weapons against Iraqi Kurd civilians in the Kurdish frontier village of Halabja, resulting in the death of over 5,000 innocent persons;

Whereas this terrible, inhumane act by the repressive Iraqi Government provoked international outrage;

Whereas the Iraqi Government continued its use of chemical weapons against a defenseless Kurdish population throughout 1988;

Whereas over 182,000 Iraqi Kurds were killed by the Iraqi Government during the Anfal campaigns in 1988;

Whereas it was not until the international response to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in 1990 that the international community instituted measures to destroy Iraq's arsenal of weapons of mass destruction;

Whereas the Iraqi Government has laid over 20 million mines throughout the Kurdish countryside which continue to

hamper efforts of rehabilitation of the displaced population;

Whereas United Nations Security Council Resolution 688 of April 1, 1991, demanded that Iraq cease repression of its citizens and called for an international relief program for the Iraqi civilian population and, in particular the Kurdish population;

Whereas, since the spring of 1991, the United States, Britain, and France have enforced by daily overflights a no-fly zone over Iraq north of the 36th parallel;

Whereas, in addition to the allied air umbrella, the United Nations carries out relief and security operations in Iraq, with emphasis on the Kurdish region;

Whereas, since 1991, the United States has provided approximately \$1.2 billion to support humanitarian and protective activities, known as Operation Provide Comfort, on behalf of the Iraqi Kurds; and

Whereas there will never truly be peace for the Iraqi Kurds without justice being carried out against their Iraqi perpetrators: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Rep-
2 resentatives that the United States Administration
3 should—

4 (1) mark the eighth anniversary of the death of
5 over 5,000 Iraqi Kurds in the 1988 chemical attack
6 by the Iraqi Government on Halabja by commemo-
7 rating all those innocent men, women, and children
8 who lost their lives;

1 (2) reaffirm the United States' commitment to
2 protect and help the Kurdish people in Iraq, thus
3 ensuring that the tragedy of Halabja will never be
4 repeated;

5 (3) support efforts to promote a democratic al-
6 ternative to the present regime in Iraq which will as-
7 sure the Kurdish people the right to self-government
8 through a federal system; and

9 (4) renew efforts to establish an international
10 war crime tribunal to prosecute Iraqi leaders in-
11 volved in crimes against humanity and war crimes.

Attest:

Clerk.